

Acton Police Department

InterDepartmental Memo

Bos
1/26
(8)

From: Frank J. Widmayer, Chief of Police

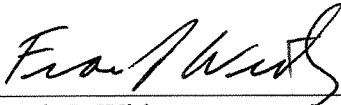
Date: January 21, 2004

To: Don Johnson, Town Manager

Subj: Street light request on Doris Road.

The Safety Officer, Bob Cowan has investigated the request for a streetlight at the location of 2 Doris road. His conclusion is that there is no public safety need for a light at this location.

A copy of his report is attached.



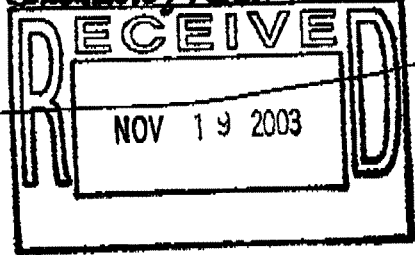
Frank J. Widmayer
Chief of Police

Single Incident

INCIDENT LOCAL # PRIORITY ACC REP	ACTIVITY ADDRESS (JURISDICTION) DISPOSITION	OFFICER(S)	RECEIVED DISPATCHED ARRIVED CLEARED	DISPATCHER SUPERVISOR NATURE INCIDENT TYPE
I0400482	CALL FOR SERVICE DOIS RD ()	COWAN	01/08/2004, 13:15 01/08/2004, 13:15 01/08/2004, 13:15	PARISI COGAN J STREET LIGHTS
No No	INVESTIGATION		01/08/2004, 13:15	GENERAL SERVICE
Reported as: GENERAL SERVICE Found as: GENERAL SERVICE Domestic Abuse: No Dispatcher Remarks: SEE SAFTY OFFICERS REPORT				
REPORTER (Male) M0400107	BARTLETT, JON 2 DORIS RD ACTON MA 01720 Phone: 978-264-1991 Commnt: REQUESTS STREET LIGHTING		License: None DOB: None Recorded	
Narrative(s):				
Narr. 1: DET. ROBERT COWAN Division: None Status: Open [I0400482] Title: STREET LIGHT REPORT Entered: DET. ROBERT COWAN Reviewed: No officer				
THIS REPORT IS IN REGARDS TO A LETTER DATED 11-19-03 FROM JON BARTLETT 2 DORIS RD. MR. BARTLETT HAS EXPRESSED CONCERNS REGARDING THE LACK OF STREET LIGHTING IN THE AREA OF DORIS RD., BEVERLY RD., KELLY RD., NADINE RD., AND FRANCINE RD. THE FOLLOWING IS MY RECOMMENDATION. THE AREA IN QUESTION DOES NOT APPEAR TO HAVE A PUBLIC SAFETY ISSUE. THE STREETS IN QUESTION HAVE A LIGHT VOLUME OF VEHICLE AND PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC. THE TWO STREETS THAT EXIT ONTO MAIN ST. ARE KELLEY RD., AND BEVERLY RD. BOTH OF THESE ROADS HAVE STREET LIGHTS AT THE RESPECTIVE INTERSECTIONS. I DO NOT SEE A NEED FOR ADDITIONAL STREET LIGHTS IN THIS AREA.				
DETECTIVE ROBERT L. COWAN JR.				

cc: DEAN CHARTER
FRANK WIDMAYER

PLEASE SEND YOUR
COMMENTS / RECOMMENDATIONS



cc: BOS

To: Board of Selectmen
From: Jon Bartlett
Re: Street Lights
November 19, 2003

Dear Board of Selectmen:

I am a recent homeowner in the town of Acton, where my wife and I find the town to be outstanding in many ways. We are very happy that we are living in this town.

There is one issue, though, that needs attention, and is the reason I write to you. My neighborhood of about twenty-five homes has one street light. We live on Doris Road, which abuts Beverly and Nadine roads. The neighborhood at night is completely dark, which is dangerous for many reasons.

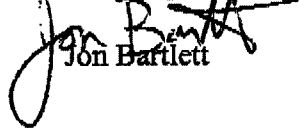
The first issue without proper lighting is safety reasons. There was one issue where my wife and I were backing out of the driveway at 6:00pm at night, and we could not see the couple walking directly behind us on the road. We barely missed them. The second issue is the lack of a friendly neighborhood. Kids cannot walk the neighborhood safely, cars can drive at their own fast pace without being identified, and neighbors are forced to spend extra on outdoor lighting from their house.

I am not suggesting to light it up like a Christmas tree. All I am requesting is to put a few lights in the neighborhood.

Please let me know what I need to do to get this ball rolling.

Thank you for your time

Sincerely,


Jon Bartlett

Jon Bartlett
2 Doris Rd.
(978) 264-1991

I 0400482

ACTON MUNICIPAL PROPERTIES DEPARTMENT**INTERDEPARTMENTAL COMMUNICATION**

To: Don P. Johnson, Town Manager **Date:** 12/15/03

From: Dean A. Charter, Municipal Properties Director *(Dre)*

Subject: Street light request, 2 Doris Road

I am in receipt of the letter from Mr. John Bartlett forwarded to me requesting the installation of street lights in his neighborhood. My comments are as follows:

1. There was a moratorium on new street light installations from around 1980 until 2001
2. The Board of Selectmen has adopted a policy for new street light installations (attached) that allows for new lights to be installed where a public safety need exists.
3. Initial cost of a new street light is around \$300, plus approximately \$110 per year for annual maintenance and operation.
4. For the past several years a figure of \$10,000 has been carried in the Municipal Properties budget for new streetlights. Other than for a few "test" lights used to evaluate the potential of standardizing and upgrading our streetlights, and for replacement of fixtures that are beyond repair, these funds have not been used to purchase and install new lights (due to several bad budget years, "optional" expenses have been curtailed, and the funds used to solve other problems). It appears that the funding for proposed new lights will be cut back for FY '05.
5. To the best of my recollection, no added street lights have been approved and installed in over ten years, regardless of policy or funding.
6. Mr. Bartlett is correct in his assertion that there are few street lights in his neighborhood. This is the case in many areas, including a number of subdivisions (e.g. Acorn Park, Stoneymeade, North Acton Woods) and a number of fairly busy through streets with heavy pedestrian traffic, such as the section of Charter Road from Hayward Road to Arlington Street and Freedom Farm Road from Arlington Street to Mohegan Road.
7. To the best of my recollection, this is the first request submitted for the installation of street lights in this neighborhood. I am not aware of any accidents attributable to lack of lighting in this area, nor have I received any correspondence from Police or Fire commenting on any safety issues in this area.
8. I would suggest that if the Board wishes to embark on a program of installing added lights that we ask for "nominations" from Police, Fire, and the general public for the town as a whole and that a prioritized list be developed. This should be an open process with lots of neighborhood input, as light levels seem to be quite an issue of late, and we should hear from all the abutters prior to acting on any requests.

Attach. (Street Light Policy)

cc.: Police, Fire, Planning

Board Of Selectmen Policy # _____

Street Lights On Public Ways

1. **NEED FOR THIS POLICY:** There is a need for an overall policy to review requests for lights on public ways, and a means for determining what sort of lights are appropriate in selected areas.
2. **OBJECTIVE OF THIS POLICY:** To prescribe a formal means of review of existing and proposed streetlights, taking into consideration the safety, aesthetic, and financial impacts of the installation or conversion of streetlights.
3. **PROJECTED IMPACT OF THIS STUDY:** This policy will provide clear, concise guidelines for review of street light requests.
4. **STATEMENT OF POLICY:** The Town shall take into consideration the safety, aesthetic impacts and financial impacts of addition, conversion, or the elimination of streetlights.
5. **GUIDELINES:** New streetlights may be installed when a public safety needs exist.
 - 5.1. In evaluating public safety needs, the following list may be used as examples of typical locations where streetlights might be appropriate. (The purpose of this listing is to provide guidance and not to exclude other locations/situations where a public safety need would require street lighting to be converted or installed.)
 - 5.1.1. Intersections of ways.
 - 5.1.2. Above Fire Alarm or Medical Call boxes.
 - 5.1.3. At crosswalks.
 - 5.1.4. In areas of heavy pedestrian traffic, such as near schools, pre-schools, playgrounds, and commercial areas.
 - 5.1.5. At dangerous or sharp curves in public ways.
 - 5.2. Existing streetlights may be converted to different fixture types, provided that the conversion is consistent with enhancing public safety and the characteristic nature of the neighborhood.
 - 5.3. Existing streetlights may be removed if the lights are inconsistent with a public safety need.
 - 5.4. Streetlights will not be installed at Town expense on private ways, over private property or at other locations serving primarily private interests.
 - 5.5. Types of lights to be installed may change from time to time based upon advances in technology. Light levels and light colors must be based upon the public safety need and consistent with the character of the neighborhood in which they are installed.
 - 5.6. New light fixtures (new streetlight and existing streetlights that are converted) are to be "full cut off" so that no glare is emitted into the night sky or in a sideways direction. Lens types are to be matched to the area illuminated so that, in so far as possible, the area illuminated is to be restricted to the solution of the public safety need. An objective of this policy is to

eliminate light trespass onto private property, skyward, or in such direction along the roadway that might create a hazard or distraction to the public.

MEANS BY WHICH THIS POLICY SHALL BE IMPLEMENTED: The Town Manager or his designee shall implement this policy.

APPEAL BOARD AND VARIANCE GRANTING AUTHORITY: The Board of Selectmen shall be the sole appeal and variance granting authority.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS POLICY: This policy will be effective immediately upon adoption by the Board of Selectmen under the procedures set forth in policy 1000.00.

DATE ON WHICH THIS POLICY SHALL EXPIRE: Indefinite.

Date Enacted

Board of Selectmen

Clerk